

The Washington Times.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1901.

Publication Office.

THE HUTCHINGS BUILDING

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

Circulation Statement.

The circulation of The Times for the week ending

October 12, 1901, was as follows:

Sunday, October 12, 1901, 21,539

Monday, October 13, 21,539

Tuesday, October 14, 21,539

Wednesday, October 15, 21,539

Thursday, October 16, 21,539

Friday, October 17, 21,539

Saturday, October 18, 21,539

Total, 133,214

Daily average (Sunday, 21,539; Monday, 21,539;

Tuesday, 21,539; Wednesday, 21,539; Thursday, 21,539;

Friday, 21,539; Saturday, 21,539)

The Only Way.

We may be sure that those who do

not desire to act adversely to the trusts

will be fertile in excuses for not doing

so. Some will urge that any attempt to

curb these great monopolies will react

upon the wage-workers; others will be

anxious to discriminate between the

"good trusts" and the "bad" ones, while

still others will raise all sorts of legal

objections.

Even now it is openly declared by

many that the only way to deal with

the trusts is through the State Legisla-

tures, the inefficiency of which was long

since conclusively shown. In every case

the trusts have either controlled the

Legislature or the officers whose duty

it has been to enforce the laws. No

remedy will ever be adequate which

depends upon the whims and caprices

of forty-five different legislative bodies.

Saying nothing of the multiplied oppor-

tunities for defeating the enactment of

laws, making them defective, and in-

operative after they are enacted, the

laws would vary in character and lead

to endless confusion. Besides all this,

there would be some States in which

there would be no anti-trust legislation

at all, and these would constitute har-

bors of refuge in which a vast amount

of trust business could be transacted

in many cases completely free from

any check or interference of the

Legislature, the enforcement of such

legislation in other States.

Legislation by the several States is

well enough as far as it goes, but the

evil is a national one, and it calls for

a national treatment. Here we are con-

fronted by the plea that a constitutional

amendment is necessary to give Con-

gress the power to act in the matter.

The claim is made that trust business

is not in the public interest, and there-

fore, not a matter within the consti-

tutional powers of the Federal Govern-

ment. If this argument were made by

those who are sincerely desirous of

doing something, it would carry much

more weight; but almost invariably it

is put forth by those who are simply

looking for excuses for not doing any-

thing, which times it with suspicion

from the first. Instead of assuming in

advance that such legislation would be

invalid, men sincerely desirous of ac-

complishing would favor the enactment

of laws which if valid would be ef-

fectual, and leave the Supreme Court

to pass upon their constitutionality.

To oppose Congressional action upon

the assumed ground that the Constitu-

tion stands in the way is to aid the

trusts more effectively than by openly

defending them, because it is mislead-

ing. When a man declares boldly that

the trusts are a benefit to the country

and that he knows where he stands and

how to deal with him; but when he pretends

to oppose them, at the same time rais-

ing technical quibbles which favor

them, he may sneak into office or keep

himself in under false pretences.

Everybody knows or ought to know

that if the trust evil is not checked

otherwise than through an amendment

to the Constitution, the relief will not

come soon enough to do the present

generation much good. First, it will be

no easy matter to get the necessary

two-thirds vote in Congress; it may be

impossible. No less difficult would it be

to secure its ratification by three-

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move heaven and earth to prevent it,

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